

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-12 were pending. Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b). With this response, claims 2, 4-5, and 10-12 are canceled, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 8 are amended, new claims 13-16 are added, and no claims are withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102 Over King

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by King (US 5,595,567). The Applicant does not admit that any characterization by the Office Action regarding these rejections is correct, but discusses such characterizations herein for the sake of argument. The Applicant notes that claims 2, 4-5, and 10-12 are canceled with this response. The Applicant traverses the rejections of the pending claims under 35 USC § 102(b) over the King reference for the reasons discussed below.

Independent claims 1 and 13, as currently amended, each recite in part, “a pattern of intersecting bond lines” including “a first plurality of linear non-intersecting continuous bond lines” and “a second plurality of non-linear non-intersecting continuous bond lines.” The Applicant notes that support for the current amendments to claim 1 and for new claim 13 can be found in the application as originally filed, at least at page 14, lines 18-23 and in Figure 4.

The Office Action cited the King reference as disclosing a “a criss-cross tessellated pattern of adhesive...lines...straight or curved (column 8, lines 17-25).” (Page 2, point 2.) The King reference states that “Suitable nonwoven web bonding patterns include a series of straight or curved lines.” (Col. 8, lines 17-18.)

To anticipate a claim, “ ‘The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.’ Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).” MPEP § 2131. From the Applicant’s review, the King reference does not appear to disclose “a pattern of intersecting bond lines” including “a first plurality of linear non-intersecting continuous bond lines” and “a second plurality of

non-linear non-intersecting continuous bond lines” in as complete detail as is recited in part in each of the Applicant’s independent claims 1 and 13.

Thus, the Applicant submits that the King reference does not anticipate independent claim 1 or 13. By extension, the King reference also does not anticipate the claims that depend from claims 1 and 13. As a result, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 102(b) rejections and allowance of the pending claims.

Conclusion

This response represents an earnest effort to place the application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the cited references. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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